

Wild Animal Possession Permits

A wild animal possession permit is required for the possession of the wild animals listed below and for the possession of a state endangered species.

<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class II</u>	<u>Class III</u>
Eastern Cottontail Rabbit	Beaver	Wolves (Purebred)
Gray Squirrel	Coyote	Bears (All species)
Fox Squirrel	Gray Fox	Wild Cats (All species, excluding feral cats)
Southern Flying Squirrel	Red Fox	Venomous Reptiles
	Mink	Crocodylians (At least 5 feet long)
	Muskrat	
	Opossum	
	Raccoon	
	Skunk	
	Weasel	

Applications

Application packets are available from the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Please contact the Commercial License Clerk at (317) 232-4102 or Linnea Petercheff at (317) 233-6527 or at lpetercheff@dnr.in.gov for an application packet or to ask any questions. Wild animal possession permits are issued by the DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife, in Indianapolis for animals that are acquired legally. A separate permit is required for each wild animal. Completed applications that include the \$10.00 permit fee (made payable to the Indiana DNR) and signature of a licensed veterinarian must be mailed to the following address in Indianapolis:

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Permit Coordinator
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2781

If the permit is approved, a wild animal possession permit will be mailed to you, and it will expire one (1) year from the date of issuance. The permit must be renewed annually.

Class I, II and III Wild Animals

An application for a wild animal possession permit must be completed and should be submitted to the DNR before taking possession of the animal.

- A) Fill out the application form, including the recapture plan. The recapture plan is included in the application form and must detail the quick and safe recapture of the wild animal if it escapes or, if recapture is impracticable, plan for the destruction of the animal. The plan must indicate who will be notified, who will attempt to recapture the animal, and what equipment will be used to recapture and destroy the animal (if needed). This equipment must be in your possession at the time the application is made.
- B) The application form must have the signature of a veterinarian testifying that the animal appears to be free of disease, appropriately immunized and in good health. If a signature cannot be obtained, a health certificate should be attached.

- C) A conservation officer must inspect the enclosure/cage that will house the animal prior to the issuance of a permit. The officer will do an inspection to ensure that the housing requirements are met and that the animal has been legally obtained. Please mail the application form to Indianapolis where it will be forwarded to the appropriate conservation officer. The officer will contact you to arrange for an inspection.
- D) Wild animals possessed under this permit may not be used for a commercial purpose (unless a commercial license issued by the USDA is obtained), for a sporting purpose or as a public display. A special purpose education permit is required (312 IAC 9-10-9.5) if the animal is going to be used in educational programs or displays.
- E) Wild animals must be kept in enclosures that ensure the safety of the animal as well as the permit holder and not pose a hazard to the property of a person other than the permit holder. The wild animal must be kept in a safe and sanitary enclosure that prevents escape of the animal, preventing any maltreatment or neglect of the animal.
- F) A permit may be denied, revoked or suspended if an emergency exists with respect to the safety of the public or the health of the animal or if the permit holder fails to comply with the attached regulations. A permit may also be denied if the animal was not lawfully acquired.

Class III Wild Animals

- A) An application for a wild animal possession permit (\$10) must be submitted before taking possession of the animal. An affirmation that neighboring landowners have been given a notice of the species of wild animal, where it will be possessed, and the type of enclosure used must be attached to the application form.
- B) In addition to the primary housing requirements, the cage or enclosure required for a Class III wild animal must also be surrounded by a perimeter chain link fence which is at least 6 feet high (or a substitute of equal height and strength) and have secondary housing such as a den or transport crate in which the animal can be secured.
- C) Once the application has been received for the first permit for that animal, the commercial license clerk will send out letters to neighboring landowners giving them 30 days to submit any concerns. If a petition is received bearing the signatures of at least 25 people that object to the possession of this wild animal, a public hearing may be conducted to receive comments and a decision will be made by the DNR on the issuance of the permit; otherwise, the permit will be issued.
- D) Once the permit is issued, neighboring landowners are sent a letter indicating that a permit has been issued and that they have an opportunity to appeal by responding within 18 days of the date of issuance.

Endangered Species

Endangered species of wild animals will be considered Class I, II or III by the division director's designee and must follow the same procedures accordingly for that class of animal (312 IAC 9-11-1).

Renewals

The permit must be renewed annually; there is no fee for a renewal. An application form must be submitted indicating that it is a renewal and must include the signature from a veterinarian. If a Class III permit holder changes their residence at any time during the year, the permit holder will need to follow the same procedures as a first time permit holder.